

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday:
The Good News is
All Are Invited



There Is Still Room
by Lauren Wright Pittman

*Digital drawing with collage
inspired by Luke 14:15-24*

Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

MINISTERS

SENIOR PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member

Derek Harkins

Sylvia Bull

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

CENTERING SONG: ELW 592 "Just As I Am" *

CONFESSION OF SIN

IMPOSITION OF ASHES - You are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers.

INVITATION TO LENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING (see next page)

REFLECTION

SUNG RESPONSE: ACS 969 "Welcome Table"

TIME OF REFLECTION & RECEIVING OF OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 481 "Come to the Table"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

BLESSING - "Blessing the Threshold" by Jan Richardson

SENDING: ELW 808 "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" *

DISMISSAL

**ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

READING

Reading: *Luke 14:15-24*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to [Jesus], "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

ARTIST STATEMENT

During this Lenten season, we will have art works centered around the texts we are reading from the theme "Tell Me Something Good" from Sanctified Art. Below is a reflection on the artwork found on the front of the bulletin from the artist that created the piece.

***There Is Still Room* by Lauren Wright Pittman**

Digital drawing with collage

inspired by Luke 14:15-24

This image is meant to be viewed from the center, moving outward. The host

sets a table,¹ with arms stretched wide in welcome. Surrounding this initial invitation, the first invitees form a ring of rejection around the host—arms crossed, closed off, and distracted by their material wealth and status. One surveys their vast vineyard, another counts their livestock, and the third navigates the economics of joining two households.

Trees, rooted in the central scene of the guestless table,² break through the ring of rejection. The next layer includes four figures—with the host's same open-armed posture—extending welcome to people in neighborhoods, markets, and communal spaces. In the parable, the initial invitation is cast more broadly; everyone is welcome despite any status or condition that might typically isolate them from community. The invited reject, but the rejected are embraced. In the art, the welcoming branches of the tree bear good fruit.³ The invitation continues to grow and flourish despite all the worldly barriers that would keep us apart and isolated. In the final ring, a crowd is gathered around an even larger table, one that still has open seats.⁴

It can be easy to focus on what feels negative in this text, but in order for the invitation to truly be an invitation, it cannot be coercive. There must always be the option to decline the invitation, and even that is good news. Still, the deeper good news is this: the host never stops inviting, and when all is said and done, there is still room at the table.

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- 1 The center of the table holds Communion elements, which serve as a nod to the storyteller of the parable and an allusion to Christ's ever-expanding welcome.
 - 2 I placed a photograph of soil as the ground upon which the central table sits. This crumbly dirt texture represents how this open invitation is fertile ground for the good news to take root.
 - 3 The tree is also a visual reference to the *Tell Me Something Good* logo, which includes abstract people forming the branches of a tree.
 - 4 The final green ring holds the texture of the leaves of a healthy, thriving tree.

open seats.⁴

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4 The final green ring holds the texture of the leaves of a healthy, thriving tree.

The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class - by Sarah Speed

In Pre-K the whole class gets an invite to Tommy's birthday.

He places the paper invites in our cubbies. There's a helter-skelter sticker sealing each one, proof that tiny hands did the work. So we,

the members of Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K class, arrive at the park on Saturday.

We arrive whether or not we've ever built a sandcastle with Tommy.

We arrive whether or not we've ever shared half of our PB&J at lunch.

We arrive at the park on Saturday, with pigtails and balloons,

because we were *invited*.

And together we play tag, and we eat birthday cake, and we run barefoot in the grass.

Together, we sing *Happy birthday to youuuuuu*, so excited we can barely stand still.

Together, we momentarily forget that Chloe never gets picked for Red Rover and that Quinn cried in

class last week, because the park is not the playground and everyone was invited.

And when we load into our cars at the end of the day, with grass-stained knees, chocolate frosting

on our faces, and the awareness of inclusion, we say to our parents, *This was the best day of my life.*



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$6,594.02** for the week of **February 15th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Jody Isaak, in memory of Randall. **Thank you!**

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.** Starting **Wednesday, February 25th, we will also have Lent Book Study on Wednesdays at 10am or 6pm.** We will be studying *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith. **Copies are available** in the office for \$22!

Sign-ups are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

Lent Devotionals based on our theme "Tell Me Something Good" by A Sanctified Art **are available now** in the Gathering Place. Please take one for your household! If you'd prefer an e-version, email the church office at faith.bisfaith@gmail.com. We hope you find it a meaningful companion during this season. As you read: take what you need, leave what doesn't fit, and be open to hearing different perspectives!

An **informational session about our summer service trip** (July 25-30, 2026) to Boone, NC, for continued hurricane relief efforts **will be held on Sunday, March 1 at 12pm.** This trip is open to anyone entering 9th grade and above - all ages welcome! Come learn more about this powerful opportunity for faith and service!

Youth and Adults are invited to a **Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, March 7, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.** For more information and to sign up, talk to Kenny!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm. **More information about this Palm Sunday Path will be available in the March News & Views and will be shared in info sessions on Sunday, March 1 at 10am and Wednesday, March 11 at 6pm in the East Room.**

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 11th at 5pm for the Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed!** Free will offering will go toward Camp of the Cross. Look for sign-ups to bring chili and bars, coming soon!

Please join us **Thursday, March 12th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at McCabe UMC (1030 N 6th St, Bismarck), will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for other Scripture Circle opportunities on April 9th, and May 14th!

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins
Music: Dmytro Somkin

Front Bulletin Image and Artist Statement ("There Is Still Room" by Lauren Wright Pittman), Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Sarah Speed) and "The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class" by Sarah Speed, from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by CCLI License 2214977 and One License.net #A-704330.(All rights reserved) Permissions for live-streaming also covered by One License and CCLI.

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 19

Friday, February 20

8:00 NA

Saturday, February 21

Sunday, February 22

8:00 All Comers' Choir

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

5:15 Dine 'n Destress (Lucky's 13)

Monday, February 23

5:00 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Compass Group

7:00 Executive Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, February 25

10:00 Lent Bible Study

11:15 Lent Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Lent Book Study

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



FEBRUARY: HEART RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

HRCC are looking for donations to help support pregnant and new mothers housed at the facility and their families with baby items. We would like to collect packs of newborn diapers (smaller packs are best), baby wipes, bibs/burp cloths, baby socks and Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8